

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A connector for fastening a member with an attaching hole, comprising:

a female part having a head portion, a leg portion connected to the head portion, an inner space formed in the leg portion and opened at the head portion, and an engaging projection formed on an outer surface of the leg portion, said engaging projection having a first strength to elastically bending bend inwardly to engage the attaching hole when the leg portion is inserted into the attaching hole, and

a male part having a pressing head portion, an inserting leg connected to the pressing head portion to be inserted into the inner space of the female part, a first engaging portion formed on an outer surface of the inserting leg at a forward end thereof for engaging an inner wall of the female part so that the male part is temporarily fixed to the female part at a temporary engaging state, and a second engaging portion formed on the outer surface of the inserting leg at a base end thereof to project outwardly therefrom, said second engaging portion, when the male part is completely inserted into the female part from the temporary engaging state to a complete engaging state, being disposed in the inner wall of the female part to permanently fix the connector to the attaching hole, said second engaging portion having a second strength greater than the first strength so that when the male part in the temporary engaging state with the female part is pushed to engage said member, the engaging projection with the first strength is deformed first to engage said member and then the second engaging portion bends and enters the inner space.

2. (currently amended) A connector according to claim 1, wherein said ~~second engaging portion of the male part is formed on the outer surface of the~~ inserting leg has a length so that in the temporary engaging state, the inserting leg is located above the engaging projection to allow the engaging projection to bend inwardly, and when the male part is completely inserted into the female part, the ~~second engaging portion~~ inserting leg is located behind the engaging projection of the female part to prevent the engaging projection from bending inwardly.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A connector according to claim 1, further comprising a maintaining engagement portion formed on ~~one of~~ either the pressing head portion of the male part ~~and~~ or the head portion of the female part for engaging the other of the pressing head portion ~~and~~ or the head portion so that the male part is permanently fixed to the female part.

5. (currently amended) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second engaging portion of the male part includes a projection formed on the outer surface of the ~~insertion~~ inserting leg, and said ~~insertion~~ inserting leg includes an empty space for allowing the projection to bend elastically inwardly.

6. (original) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said leg portion of the female part includes a cutout portion to form the engaging projection, said first engaging portion being located in the cutout portion in the temporary and permanent engaging states.

7. (original) A connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second engaging portion projecting outwardly from the inserting leg engages an edge of the female part in the temporary engaging state.

8. (new) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said female part further includes a rib on the leg portion to project outwardly therefrom, said second engaging portion being located behind the rib in the permanent engaging state with the leg portion interposed therebetween.

9. (new) A connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein said male part further includes a pair of grooves to sandwich the second engaging portion therebetween to allow the second engaging portion to easily bend inwardly.